

MINUTES
Historical Society of the United States Courts in the Eighth Circuit
Executive Committee Conference Call
June 14, 2006, 12:00 noon

Participants:

Hon. Richard G. Kopf, Chairman of the Board
Frances Ross, President
F. Richard Lyford, Vice-President
Ann Fessenden, Secretary
Sheila Greenbaum, Treasurer
Tom Boyd, Past-President
Hon. Richard Peterson, Past-President
Joan Voelker, Archives Librarian

Ms. Ross called the meeting to order at noon. All Executive Committee members were present.

Minutes

The minutes of the past conference call were approved.

Court of Appeals book and fund-raising

Mr. Boyd reported that the manuscript was with the copy editor at the University of Minnesota Press, and the Press has stated in writing that the book will appear in their Spring 2007 catalog. He also noted that the Minnesota Chapter of the Federal Bar Association has donated \$1500 toward publication of the book and said he had a lead at a St. Louis law firm. Mr. Lyford offered to pursue a donation with the Federal Bar Association in Iowa.

Finances

Ms. Greenbaum reported that the balance in the “parent” account was, \$13,669.65; the Appeals Branch has \$3,326.31.

Ms. Ross asked about data on donations for publication of the Court of Appeals book, and Ms. Greenbaum offered to email the information.

Newsletter

Ms. Fessenden said she had been asked to pursue the possibility of having Historical Society news published in the 8th Circuit Bar Association newsletter. She reported that the newsletter’s editor was willing to include Society news but that the articles must relate to the Court of Appeals, which is the scope of the newsletter. So, Ms. Fessenden pointed out, the Society would not be able to disseminate all of its news and still lacks a venue for non-appeals information. Ms. Fessenden noted that the 8th Circuit library does include articles related to Historical Society interests in its bimonthly newsletter, but the newsletter is only distributed to court staff. She also said that we may want to reconsider having library staff create an electronic newsletter for the

Historical Society, but unfortunately, the staff's time is very restricted at present.

Next Full Judicial Conference/Publicity

Ms. Fessenden mentioned that the next full Judicial Conference would be in 2008 and asked the committee if they wished to pursue means of publicity beyond conference events. It was decided that Ms. Fessenden would inform the committee when planning begins for the 2008 conference.

AASLH/Court History Group

Ms. Voelker conveyed that the 2006 meeting of the Court History Group will be held Sept. 14-15 in Phoenix in conjunction with the American Association of State and Local History's (AASLH) meeting, which is Sept. 13-16. She noted that in the past, the Court History Group met Thursday evening through Saturday, but this year the meeting has been reduced to two days. On Thursday evening, a reception will be held, and on Friday, there will be a morning program as part of the AASLH program called, "Visualizing Court History - Documentaries and Legal History," a Court History luncheon, and a court history group discussion on three topics in the afternoon. Bruce Ragsdale of the Federal Judicial History Office will send out a detailed agenda in July, and in the meantime, AASLH will be sending out program and registration materials.

Judicial Education Center

Ms. Fessenden shared information on the Judicial Education Center located on the main floor of the Thomas F. Eagleton U.S. Courthouse in St. Louis. She reported that while the center's structure is now complete and doors opened to the public in May, the content is still in the planning process. Ms. Fessenden said that the history of the 8th Circuit will be covered in some way, but it will not be the focus of the center. Instead, the focus will be on how the courts work. While the permanent content is being developed, traveling exhibits will be on display in the center. The first and current display is on the theme of the role of the U.S. district courts in immigration, naturalization, and deportation proceedings.

Judge Theodore McMillian Permanent Display

Ms. Fessenden told the committee that the 27th floor of the Eagleton Courthouse, the location of the Blackmun Rotunda, now has a permanent display honoring the life and contributions of Judge Theodore McMillian in the west hall off of the Rotunda. She asked Joan Voelker to describe the exhibit as Ms. Voelker worked with the Circuit Executive's Office and Creative Art Gallery & Framing to create the display.

Ms. Voelker said that the north side of the exhibit features Judge McMillian's portrait and federal commission and a biographical summary, plus a glass case enclosing Judge McMillian's robe with the gold stripes on the sleeves, a stole from an African-American judges' conference, Judge McMillian's ABA Spirit of Excellence Award, and a buffalo soldier bust the Judge kept on his desk in memory of his World War II service in that famous Army unit.

She also said the south side of the display includes framed photos spanning the years of childhood to federal judgeship, awards the Judge received, and a list of Judge McMillian's achievements as the first African American in various capacities.

Next meeting

Wednesday, September 20, 2006 at 12:00 noon was chosen as the date for the next conference call.

There being no other business, the conference call adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,
Ann T. Fessenden, Secretary